

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PONTA 00027 302247Z

73

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1067

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CONVERSATION JANUARY 26 CONOFF AND NUNO VASCO CABRALDA
CAMARA

REF: PONTA DELGADA A 13 B 24

1. CAMARA STILL CONVINCED "99 PERCENT" ALL AZOREANS FAVOR INDEPENDENCE. IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTAIN HOWEVER WITHOUT FOREIGN, THAT IS, US SUPPORT. HE FEELS HE HAS DONE ALL HE CAN TO OBTAIN SUCH SUPPORT, IS DISILLUSIONED AND PUZZLED BY AMERICAN REFUSAL. SAYS FURTHER EFFORTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY OTHERS.
 2. CAMARA SAID THAT GROUP OF YOUNG MEN INCLUDING FORMER COMMANDOS FROM AFRICAN WARS HAS BEEN ORGANIZED ON SAO MIGUEL TO SIEZE CONTROL OF ISLAND IN EVENT OF COMMUNIST COUP OR CLEAR VICTORY IN ELECTIONS. STATED THAT ALTHOUGH GROUP ALREADY HAS DYNAMITE AND ASSORTED SMALL SPORTING ARMS STOCKPILED IT LACKS EFFECTIVE MODERN ARMAMENTS. IMPLIED THAT HIS SON ANTONIO, AGRICULTURAL STUDENT KEENLY INTERESTED IN FIREARMS, AMONG LEADERS.
 3. QUESTIONED ABOUT MAPA, CAMARA OPINED THAT MOVEMENT IS LED BY "COWARDS" WHO ARE CONFUSING AZOREANS BY ADVOCATING AUTONOMY INSTEAD OF INDEPENDENCE.
 4. COMMENT: CAMARAS IDEA OF NUMBER AZOREANS FAVORING INDEPENDENCE WILDLY EXAGGERATED AND WE NOTE NO MENTION THIS CONVERSATION
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PAGE 02 PONTA 00027 302247Z

OF "INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT" HE PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED TO HEAD,

TENDING TO CONFIRM OUR ORIGINAL BELIEF IT NEVER EXISTED.
GROUP MENTIONED PARA TWO MAY BE EQUALLY EPHEMERAL BUT WELL
ORGANIZED BREAKUP OF COMMUNIST RALLY JANUARY 24 (REF B)
WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL IN FACE CIVIL AND MILITARY POLICE EFFORTS
TO MAINTAIN ORDER SUGGESTS SOME COHESION AMONG ELEMENTS HERE
WILLING TO GO LONG WAY TO PREVENT COMMUNIST RULE. THESE
ELEMENTS PROBABLY OVERLAP MAPA MEMBERSHIP. WE REGARD CAMARA
AS BEING ON SIDELINES RATHER THAN AS PRINCIPAL AND SUSPECT
THIS LOOSE TALK RESPONSIBLE FOR TOUSAND MACHINEGUN RUMOR AND
RECENT REQUEST CUSTOMS TO INSPECT PACKAGES BROUGHT HERE FROM
LAJES BY CONOFFS (REF A).
DANIELS

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